

FLORIDA PEARL FISHING.

A DAY'S OUTING WITH DYER BEN HAWLEY OFF SHELL KEY.

Schoolboy Diving in Shallow Blackwater Sound, but Work for a Professional in Bringing Up the Pearl Conchs in the Deep Florida Straits—No Fear of Sharks.

BLACKWATER SOUND, Fla., Nov. 12.—The partnership soon taken hold of a man that he misses it when he goes out of its range. The saying of a Matecumbe man, "I should feel lonesome in New York, because I couldn't look out at night and see the old Alligator Light twinkling at me," is not mere sentiment; it is fact. From Matecumbe, or Key Largo, one can look seaward at any hour of the night, and there is the star that never sets. No matter how dark the night or how stormy the weather, the light burns and says to the watchful islander, "Here are human beings and one man always awake and attending to his duty." It takes away the feeling of utter isolation from mankind, which is very well sometimes in theory, but always uncomfortable in practice.

From Ben Hawley's house, on Shell Key, no light is visible, and the deprivation. Men of the keys wake up a dozen times at night, partly on account of the mosquitoes and partly from the habit of keeping watch on shipboard; and when they wake it is not simply to turn over and drop off to sleep again. The people on the keys are not so much as walk about, and go out to look at the weather, and generally light a pipe and sit down near the door and cogitate. Most of them are such constant smokers that complete abstinence from bedtime till sunrise is not to be thought of. The first thing that comes into the mind of a man who wakes up at night is to get a pipe and an hour's talk about tide and currents and sharks and new moons before sleep comes again. In such midnight convalescence the blink of a lighthouse is equal to one more companion.

When Ben Hawley, a tall, dark, weathered man, with a pipe in his mouth, is pulled at the pipe on his lonely estate, he has not this consolation. He looks out, when the moon shines, over a sheet of water on which no human being is astray. On stormy nights he looks out into a sea of blackness, with no mariner's star to cheer him. He looks out, when the moon shines, over a sheet of water on which no human being is astray. On stormy nights he looks out into a sea of blackness, with no mariner's star to cheer him.

"Where do you sell your pearls, Mr. Hawley?" the stranger asked.

"Nearly always in Nassau," he replied.

"When I go to Key West I take some along and occasionally sell a few there, but that can hardly be called a regular trade. I don't know much about them there, and for that reason I don't care to deal with them. Their idea is size, and I could sell them big pearls full of flaws for much more than their value. If I cared to swindle them, now in Nassau it is entirely different. There are dealers in Nassau who know to a sixteenth of an inch the worth in London, what it is worth in New York, and what it is worth on the spot. I know pearls as well as they do; in fact, I was in the business myself in Nassau for some years, so we come to terms without much trouble. There are at least two pearls in Nassau that are worth more than gold, and once a year go to New York to sell them, and then on to London to sell what they cannot get their prices for in New York. Those are the men I sell to."

"Do they pay fair prices for what they buy?"

"Think they do," the pearl fisher answered.

"Though opinions might differ about what is fair price. It depends very largely upon who they buy from. They pay me about one-half of what a pearl is worth in London, and that I consider fair. When they buy from men who know nothing about pearls, they pay me a shilling for a few, they pay me a shilling in the pound; if a pearl is worth \$10 in London, they will pay ten shillings for it."

"Why do they pay you more than others?"

"Of course I expected you to ask that question. It is a very simple matter. I am a dealer in pearls, and I would not sell for less. I sell enough every year to make it an object, or at least to make it possible, for me to go to New York or London and sell to the dealers there. The casual order of a few pearls is not this advantage. He could not get a long sea voyage for the sake of selling, say, \$10 or \$20 worth of pearls, so he must take whatever the local dealers are willing to give. I am a dealer in pearls, and I would not sell for less. I sell enough every year to make it an object, or at least to make it possible, for me to go to New York or London and sell to the dealers there. The casual order of a few pearls is not this advantage. He could not get a long sea voyage for the sake of selling, say, \$10 or \$20 worth of pearls, so he must take whatever the local dealers are willing to give."

"And you go to New York or London to sell them?"

"Oh, yes," the pearl fisher answered.

"How do you get to New York or London?"

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"You have had your share of the water, haven't you?"

"I have," the diver answered.

"How do you like it?"

"I like it," the diver answered.

"What do you think of it?"

"I think it's a good thing," the diver answered.

"Do you think it's worth while to take your life in your hands?"

"I do," the diver answered.

"Why do you?"

"I do it for the money," the diver answered.

"How much money do you make?"

"I make about \$100 a month," the diver answered.

"Is that a good deal?"

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THE LATEST JULIETTE.

MME. FRANCES SAVILLE AND HER SUCCESSORS IN OPERA.

The Prima Donna Who Is to Disappear a New Juliette at the Opening of the Grand Season To-morrow Night.

Mme. Frances Saville is the new prima donna who will disappear a new Juliette at the opening of the opera season to-morrow evening. Mme. Saville was born in America, but having been educated in Australia when she was eight months old, she has no recollection of the land of her nativity.

Her parents were both musicians—her mother a singer, her father a violinist. They were on a professional tour around the world when they settled for a time in San Francisco, where Mme. Saville was born. They took the infant to Melbourne, where they lived for some time.

In this decade she was advised by Santley to proceed to England and put herself in training for concert and oratorio work.

Her voice had been cultivated by her mother, who, under the name of Mrs. Santley, was a professional singer in 1861, was her only musical instructor. Santley first heard her singing in a performance of "Elijah" at Sydney, Australia, and was so struck by the beauty of her voice that he immediately took her to England.

The next step was to go to Paris, to Marché, and nine months after her arrival on English soil she made her debut as Juliette at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels, Sept. 7, 1862. She then sang at Monte Carlo and in England, and a year ago made her debut at the Opéra Comique in Paris.

It is hardly to be said that these figures really fall short of the actual number of epileptics in the United States. The number of epileptics in the United States is estimated at 100,000. The number of epileptics in the United States is estimated at 100,000.

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THE NUMBER OF EPILEPTICS.

In the State of New York Available for Craig Colony.

Quite recently the State Board of Charities, through its representative, Dr. Charles S. Hoyt, canvassed the State to determine the number of epileptics in county and city almshouses and in the State of New York.

Feeling that this number by no means represented the actual number of epileptics available for admission to the colony, Dr. Frederick C. Craig, President of the Board of Managers of Craig Colony, has instituted a special separate inquiry among all sorts of public and charitable institutions, including not only the almshouses, but also hospitals, homes, protectives, orphan asylums, and the like, and the figures he has secured in this more extensive canvass are as follows:

Epileptics in county poorhouses.....194
Epileptics in city almshouses.....18
Epileptics in State hospitals.....18
Epileptics in city hospitals.....18
Epileptics in various other public and charitable institutions.....30
Total.....280

In addition to these 280 epileptics, a careful inquiry elicited the fact that there are available for admission to the colony 150 epileptics in the State of whom, at the very lowest estimate, 15 per cent. are available for residence under the moderate restrictions of Craig Colony, making an additional 150 patients.

Moreover, nearly 100 patients of application have been received by officers of the colony from epileptics not in almshouses, asylums, or other institutions, but nevertheless poverty stricken and asking some sort of miserable existence.